IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all listing of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended): A method for ~~protecting~~ altering source digital image content, comprising:

providing source digital image content organized as a sequence of frames to a rendering unit, wherein rendering of the source digital image content produces a first sequence of rendered frames for real-time display;

altering the source digital image content within the rendering unit in response to tags in a data stream that provide[[d]] tagged commands to the rendering unit to remove, add, or modify an item in the source digital image content using three-dimensional processing to produce a second sequence of rendered frames that is different than the first sequence of rendered frames ~~that is a portion of the digital content visible to a viewer, wherein the alterations of the image content are not visually perceptible for real-time display, but are visually perceptible in a recorded version of the image content~~, wherein the item is within a portion of the first sequence of rendered frames that is visible to a viewer,

the step of altering the source digital image content further including detecting one of the tags in the data stream associated with a frame in the sequence of frames, ~~the~~ a portion of the frame being altered ~~modified from a preceding frame in the sequence~~ to generate an altered frame in the second sequence of rendered frames; and

utilizing the tag to access an action table and find the tagged commands, to cause ~~either the altered frame or~~ the ~~frame~~ first sequence of rendered frames to be displayed and the second sequence of rendered frames to be recorded.

2. (Original): The method, according to claim 1, wherein the step of altering comprises randomly selecting frames for alteration.

3. (Currently Amended): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises distorting at least one object visible to the viewer in a frame.

4. (Previously Presented): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises relocating at least one object visible to the viewer in a frame.

5. (Previously Presented): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises adding at least one object visible to the viewer to a frame.

6. (Original): The method, according to claim 5, wherein the rendering unit is a graphics processing unit.

7. (Currently Amended): A device for ~~protecting~~ altering source digital image content, comprising:

a rendering unit configured to:

produce a first sequence of rendered frames for real-time display by rendering the source digital content that is organized as a sequence of frames,

detect tags in a data stream, and ~~to~~

associate the detected tags with tagged commands for altering the source digital image content to remove, add, or modify an item in the source digital image content using three-dimensional processing to produce a second sequence of rendered frames that is different than the first sequence of rendered frames ~~that is a portion of the digital content visible to a viewer, wherein the alterations of the image content are not visually perceptible for real-time display, but are visually perceptible in a recorded version of the image content~~, wherein the item is within a portion of the first sequence of rendered frames that is visible to a viewer and the rendering unit include[[ing]]s a tag detector for detecting the tags in the data stream, one of the tags being associated with one frame in [[a]]the sequence of frames, a portion of the one frame being altered ~~from a preceding frame in the sequence~~ to generate an altered frame in the second sequence of rendered frames; and

an action table that is accessed utilized to find the tagged commands and cause the first sequence of rendered frames to be displayed and the second set of rendered frames to be recorded~~either the altered frame or the one frame to be displayed~~.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Original): The device, according to claim 8, wherein the rendering unit comprises memory for storing overlays for alteration of the image content.

10. (Original): The device, according to claim 8, wherein the rendering unit comprises a random number generator for randomly selecting when to apply the commands.

11. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the random number generator randomly selects when to apply overlays.

12. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit comprises a decryptor.

13. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit is configured to detect watermarks and to alter image frames in response to detected watermarks.

14. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit detects watermarks and provides a graphical user interface in response to at least one detected watermark.

15. (Original): The device, according to claim 14, wherein the graphical user interface is provide after detecting a threshold number of watermarks.

16. (Original): The device, according to claim 15, wherein the graphical user interface provides a data entry block for entry of a key.

17. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to down sample in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

18. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to disable recording in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

19. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to randomly alter the selected frames in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

20. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital video camera.

21. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital video disc recorder.

22. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a compact disc recorder.

23. (Original): The recording device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a hard disk drive recorder.

24. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital tape drive recorder.

25. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a floppy disk drive recorder.

26. - 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein [[a]]the rendering unit causes display of the altered frame upon detection of the tag unless a proper response is entered by the user.

35. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34 including the step of applying the tag to a randomizer to randomly apply or ignore the tag or send the tag to the action table.

36. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 including the step of, in response to the detection of the tag, invoking a graphical user interface (GUI) to allow a user to enter a key to prevent the action table from being accessed so that the unaltered frames are not displayed.

37. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the tagged commands are associated with texture and include blending commands for altering the source digital image content.

38. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the tag is determined as a dot product of multiple vertices in a row.

39. (New): The device, according to claim 7, wherein the tagged commands are associated with texture and include blending commands for altering the source digital image content.

40. (New): The device, according to claim 7, wherein the tag is determined as a dot product of multiple vertices in a row.